



Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind, Inc.  
*Serving the Deaf-Blind Community Since 1987*

# TODDB NEWS

Volume 22  
Issue 2  
July 2018

***“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.” - - Helen Keller***

# **TODB NEWS**

**A publication by the Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind, Inc. This newsletter is written for the Deaf-Blind Community, their families and Interested Parties.**

**Primary Editors**

**John Forbes**

**Margie DeMars**

**Guest Editors as Noted  
at Articles Contributed**

## **TODB Officers and Board Members**

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**Secretary – Margie DeMars**

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**Board Member – Jason Emmons**

**Board Member – Lisa Rimmell**

**Board Member – Kathy Emmons**

**Board Member at Large - Billy Wilson**

**Board Member at Large –Noble Powers**

# TODB NEWS

3800 Sam Boney Drive, Ste 101, Nashville, TN 37211-3745

July 2018 Volume 22, Issue 2

**Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind, Inc.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

◆ ◆ ◆ **DATE: October 27, 2018** ◆ ◆ ◆

**WHAT: Statewide Meeting**

**WHERE: Bridges – Multi-Purpose Room**

**935 Edgehill Avenue**

**Nashville, TN 37203**

**See map to Bridges elsewhere in this  
newsletter.**

**Directions: 616-438-4080 (voice)**

**TIME: 10:00am till 11:00am CDT – Social Hour**

**11:00am till 11:45am - Lunch**

**12:00pm till 2:00pm CDT – Meeting**

**Bring a vegetable dish or dessert for our potluck lunch. Meat will be provided (probably Turkey). Dishes that must be heated, should be microwavable.**

## MEETING PROGRAM

**Speaker: Glenn McReynolds, Benefits Analyst, TDC**

**Topic: *Making work WORK*. This presentation illustrates Social Security work incentives for those receiving disability benefits and how employment may (or may not) impact those benefits.**

**Door Prizes: Awarded by drawing to lucky winners.**

**INTERPRETING SERVICES: Interpreters provided for the meeting.**

**SSPs: Bring your own SSP; if unable to find one, call 615-988-2633, at least 10 days ahead.**



◆ ◆ ◆ **DATE: September 22, 2018** ◆ ◆ ◆

**WHAT: Annual Sailing Day**

**WHERE: Old Hickory Lake, Harbor Island Yacht Club  
300 Harbor Drive  
Old Hickory, TN 37138**

**See map elsewhere in this newsletter.**

**TIME: 9:00am till 12:00pm, CDT**

**LUNCH: After the event we will all have lunch at the yacht club, to eat and socialize. Lunch is being provided by the Harbor Island Yacht Club.**

**ACTIVITY FORM: Due to the popularity of this event, reservations will now be required. The activity confirmation form included in this newsletter must be filled out, submitted and received by Wednesday, September 12, 2018.**

**SSPs: SSPs are required for this event for your safety. If you cannot find one, email John Forbes at [jc.forbes@comcast.net](mailto:jc.forbes@comcast.net) by Sept. 5th, for arrangements.**



◆ ◆ ◆ **DATE: October 12-15, 2018** ◆ ◆ ◆

**WHAT: Southeastern Regional Institute on Deafness  
SERID 2018 Conference in Louisville, Kentucky  
At the Hyatt Regency Hotel**

320 West Jefferson Street, Louisville, Kentucky, 40202.

Tel: (502) 581-1234

Theme: "Taking The Reins"

Find complete registration information online at:  
[www.serid.org](http://www.serid.org)

**THE NATIONAL DEAF-BLIND EQUIPMENT DISTRIBUTION  
PROGRAM / iCAN Connect in TN**

The National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) is a federal program through the FCC intended to provide access to communication and the Internet for deaf-blind individuals with incomes under 400% of the state's low income level. The program provides equipment, warranties, and individualized training to use the equipment. A copy of the list of available equipment is available at:

[www.iccanconnect.org/Tennessee](http://www.iccanconnect.org/Tennessee). For further information

contact Monique Brazelton by email at

[Monique.Brazelton@tn.gov](mailto:Monique.Brazelton@tn.gov). If you are Deaf-Blind and have the skills to be a trainer, contact Marilyn Trader at

[Marilyn.Trader@HKNC.org](mailto:Marilyn.Trader@HKNC.org).

Further contact information is as follows:

Tennessee Public Utility Commission

Andrew Jackson Building

509 Deadrick Street, Fourth Floor

Nashville, TN 37243

Office: 615-770-6879

Fax: 615-741-8953

## **NEWS OF INTEREST**

### **FIRST-EVER TENNESSEE DEAF-BLIND EXPO A SUCCESS**

**On June 30, 2018, Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind, Inc. hosted the first-ever TN DB Expo. It was held at the Main Branch of the Nashville Public Library's Conference Center. The theme of the expo was Technology and Awareness. Flyers were sent out to the Deaf-Blind, Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Blind Communities, as well as their families and the General Public. The Expo was attended by 150 people from these sectors. The purpose of the Expo was to showcase the latest in Deaf-Blind technology and human service resources to assist with accessibility at home, work or recreation. Twenty-two vendors displayed their products or services and to provide information and answers to the attendees questions.**

**As a highlight for the Expo's attendees was the presentations by four guest speakers which included Marilyn Trader, Helen Keller National Center Area Representative; Tiffany Kelley, Department of Human Services and Lisa Rimmell, Deaf-Blind Coordinator; and Ryan Bondroff, Sprint Accessibility.**

**Ms. Trader opened her presentation describing the national organization of the Helen Keller National Center (HKNC) and the Deaf-Blind coordinators of each state in the U.S. This program is doing what it can to expand services out in the field to meet the needs of the Deaf-Blind individuals. The Tennessee Public Utilities Commission hosts and handles requests for equipment from the National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP) through the iCanConnect website. Ms. Trader stated that they are**

keeping up to date on technology (pace of changes and improvements). She further explained program procedures which varies from state to state. It is best to be on the HKNC registry to get the services and equipment. Procedures of obtaining equipment from the NDBEDP have been updated and more restrictions on the issuing of equipment are in place. Ms. Trader concluded by sharing notable examples of how the iCanConnect program can provide technology devices to improve one's quality of life.

Ms. Kelley is the Director for Operations for the Deaf-Blind for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. The goal of this department is to help people be self-sufficient, and help with employment preparations, resume building and job interviews. This department partners with six community centers with involvement, resources, and assists in finding employment, ensuring workplace environment and keeping long-term employment. Independent living services under the Department of Human Services assists Deaf-Blind individuals in cooking, being safe, emergency preparedness, orientation and mobility (in and out of the home) to name a few as part of the department's offering of services. Ms. Rimmell explained her role as the Deaf-Blind Coordinator throughout the state. Her responsibility is to be out on the field coordinating services for Deaf-Blind individuals. She read the Governor's Proclamation commemorating the National Helen Keller Deaf-Blind Awareness Week which concluded on the Expo's event date.

Mr. Bondroff is the representative for Sprint Accessibility (formerly Sprint Relay Services) and is the national outreach coordinator. He shared about Sprint Accessibility for the Deaf-Blind using Braille or phone for communication for any purpose in the U.S. He also

further discussed Sprint IP Relay app. IP stands for Internet Protocol for any mobile, computer or web based device that can connect to the Sprint IP through sprintip.com website. Mr. Bondroff stated that through the desires of the Deaf-Blind Community, it has become 'considered the primary communication source for the Deaf-Blind Community now" for the full range of dual hearing and vision sensory loss. The IP is compatible for low vision and Braille users. Training is available on a one-on-one basis for this relay service. Registration with Sprint IP is required.

The guest speaker session was concluded with a Questions and Answer period for attendees to ask their questions to the four speakers.

Following the program presentations, Door Prizes were drawn and awarded to some lucky attendees. A Certificate of Appreciation by TODB was awarded to Sandy Cohen for her outstanding and lasting contribution to the Deaf-Blind Community. The Expo continued afterwards till closing of a successful day of the Expo.

See the Photo Gallery page elsewhere in this newsletter for photos and a link for additional photos of the TN DB Expo.



## **TRC PROGRAMS SERVE THE DEAF-BLIND**

By Karen A. Davis, VIS Supervisor

The Vision Impairment Services (VIS) program of the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center (TRC) in Smyrna provides comprehensive, individualized evaluation and services, structured discovery learning, and personal adjustment training in alternative techniques and adaptive aids that a person who is blind or visually impaired might use to be independent on the job and at home.

VIS serves clients who experience vision loss in addition to being deaf or hard of hearing. VIS works closely with the TRC Coordinator of Deaf Services, who also provides individualized services for the deaf and hard of hearing.

In addition, VIS evaluates and trains students in the skills needed for entry into the Tennessee Business Enterprises program for blind vendors.

To be referred to TRC and the VIS program, a person must be a Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Client with the Tennessee Department of Human Services (TDHS). The person must have employment as their ultimate goal. Interested individuals may self-refer for VR services by calling the TDHS Division of Rehabilitation Services' Nashville main number at 615-741-1606. For more information about VIS, contact Karen Davis at 615-223-8020 or via email at [Karen.Davis@tn.gov](mailto:Karen.Davis@tn.gov).

VIS program training classes include the following:

- **Assistive Technology and Computer Skills:** Using screen reading or magnification software and refreshable braille displays. Using Microsoft Office, email, and the internet. Training in iDevices (Smart Phones and tablets) and apps for independent living and employment.
- **Adaptive Communication Skills:** Recording devices; typing skills; college prep

- Adaptive Kitchen Skills: All phases of safe meal prep, including use of the oven and stovetop
- Braille: Reading and writing braille and using related assistive technology
- Low Vision: Functional low vision evaluation to explore magnifiers, monoculars, filters, and CCTVs
- Orientation and Mobility: Traveling safely and independently indoors and outdoors
- Transitional Skills: Career exploration; seeking employment; writing resumes and cover letters; completing applications; learning interviewing techniques; job shadowing; acquiring housing and transportation

#### QUOTE FOR THE ISSUE:

“The hardest thing of all is to find a black cat in a dark room, especially if there is no cat.” - Confucius

#### INFORMATION CORNER

##### TECH GAMES

Are you still a child at heart? Here is a tech game product you may find to fill your leisure time. It's an app for smart phones (iPhones & Androids) that is especially designed for Deaf-Blind children, but also for adults still wanting to play games at times (or say "I have a new toy' for fun). This technology is the SS12 LockPick Build 4. A haptic feedback based game created for the 2012 CSUN Code for a Cause competition. It is designed to be used by both Deaf-Blind and Blind users. For more information go to: [www.androidapk.us/Games/SS12-LockPick-13943.html](http://www.androidapk.us/Games/SS12-LockPick-13943.html)

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Membership dues for the Year 2017 are past due if you have not paid the dues for this year. Please do not wait until there is an activity you want to attend to pay your dues. Our activities are ongoing and we have expenses, including the newsletter, and insurance, whether you are participating or not. It is important to keep everyone informed, so everyone can have the opportunity to participate. The dues are \$10 per person or per family, per year from January to December. Remember, your dues must be paid in order to participate in activities. Please send your dues to TODB, 3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101, Nashville, TN, 37211-3745. Make checks payable to TODB. Use the membership form included with this newsletter.**

## **EMAIL AND POSTAL MAILING ADDRESS**

**Please help us out to keep our costs down by sending email addresses and changes of email and postal mailing addresses to John at [jc.forbes@comcast.net](mailto:jc.forbes@comcast.net) for both deafblind and interested parties who would like to receive our newsletter and keep up on our events. Also, please contact friends and colleagues who might be interested in being SSPs for our activities and meetings. Ask them to email John at [jc.forbes@comcast.net](mailto:jc.forbes@comcast.net).**

**If postal mail is preferred, send to TODB, 3300 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101, Nashville, TN, 37211-3745.**

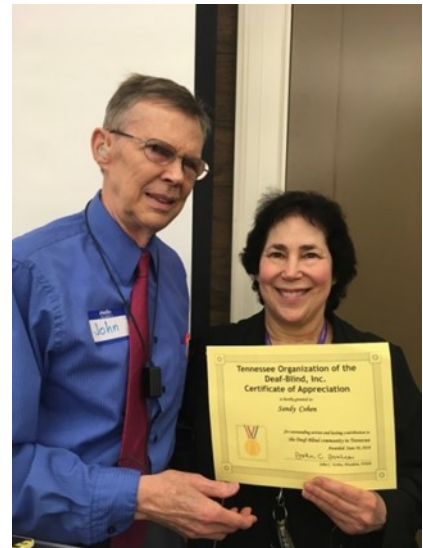
# 2018 TENNESSEE DEAF-BLIND EXPO PHOTOS



Pres. John Forbes and Guest Speaker, Ryan Bondroff,  
at the Podium



Jeff Sponseller interpreting  
for his wife Barbara from IN



John Forbes awards  
Certificate of Appreciation to  
Sandy Cohen



An Expo attendee at one of the many vendor exhibit displays

Additional photos: <https://eyesoffaithphotography.shootproof.com/gallery/6986096/album/all>. Use by permission only. © Copyright 2018 Victor Pile. All rights reserved

## TODB Application for Membership

To join, please complete this form and send with a \$10.00 check (for dues) made payable to TODB and mail to:

**TODB**  
3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101  
Nashville, TN 37211-3745

Please print information. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (hm) \_\_\_\_\_ (wk) \_\_\_\_\_

VP: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check appropriate box(es):

DeafBlind Individual  Parent  Professional  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Accommodation Needs:

Large print  Braille  ASL Interpreter  Signed Eng. Interp.

Close Interpreter  Tactile Interpreter  Cued Speech  SSP

Please call 1-615-988-2633 or e-mail [jc.forbes@comcast.net](mailto:jc.forbes@comcast.net) if you need assistance with transportation to meetings and we will try to assist. Also let us know if you can assist with transportation.

PLEASE note your interests (newspaper, camps, fundraising, grant writing, surfing the internet for information, etc.):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ACTIVITY CONFIRMATION FORM**

**EVENT: SAILING DAY**

**WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2017, 9:00AM - 1:00PM, CDT.**

**WHERE: OLD HICKORY LAKE**

**MEET: AT ENTRANCE GATE TO HARBOR ISLAND YACHT CLUB,  
300 HARBOR DR., OLD HICKORY, TN 37138 BY 9:00AM.**

**NOTE: THIS FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO RESERVE YOUR SEAT  
ON THE BOAT AND SSPs ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT.  
MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE REQUIRED FOR THIS EVENT – SEE BELOW.**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_**

\_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_**

**VP / TTY: \_\_\_\_\_**

**E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_**

**MEMBER:  YES  NO  NOT SURE, PLEASE VERIFY**

**SSPs:  YES, I WILL BRING MY OWN SSP**

**SSP's NAME: \_\_\_\_\_**

**PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_**

**NO, I DO NOT HAVE AN SSP AND WILL  
NEED ONE**

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL TO:**

**JOHN FORBES, President**

**TODB**

**3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101**

**NASHVILLE, TN 37211-3745**

**FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, September 13, 2017**

**IF INTERESTED IN ANOTHER TYPE OF ACTIVITY, PLEASE INDICATE  
HERE:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# BRIDGES

## 935 Edgehill Avenue

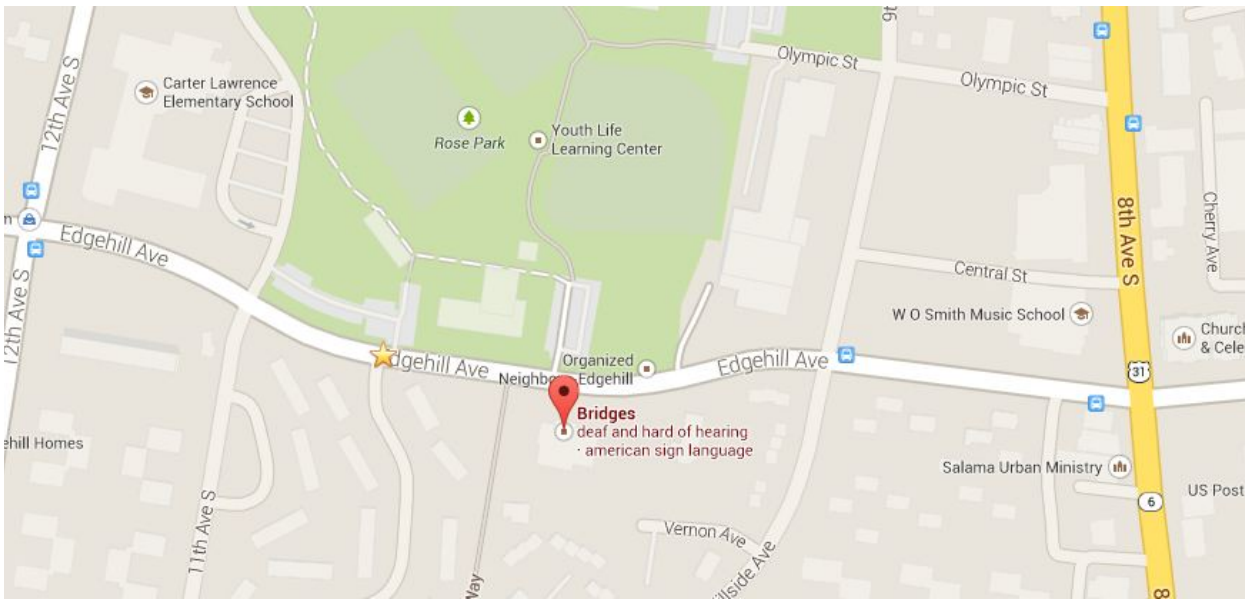
### Nashville, TN 37203

Directions to Bridges, 935 Edgehill Ave, Nashville, TN 37203:

From I-65 SOUTH (from downtown): Take exit 81 for Wedgewood Avenue. Turn RIGHT onto Wedgewood Avenue. Turn RIGHT onto 8th Avenue South. Turn LEFT onto Edgehill Avenue. Bridges is on the LEFT on Edgehill Avenue.

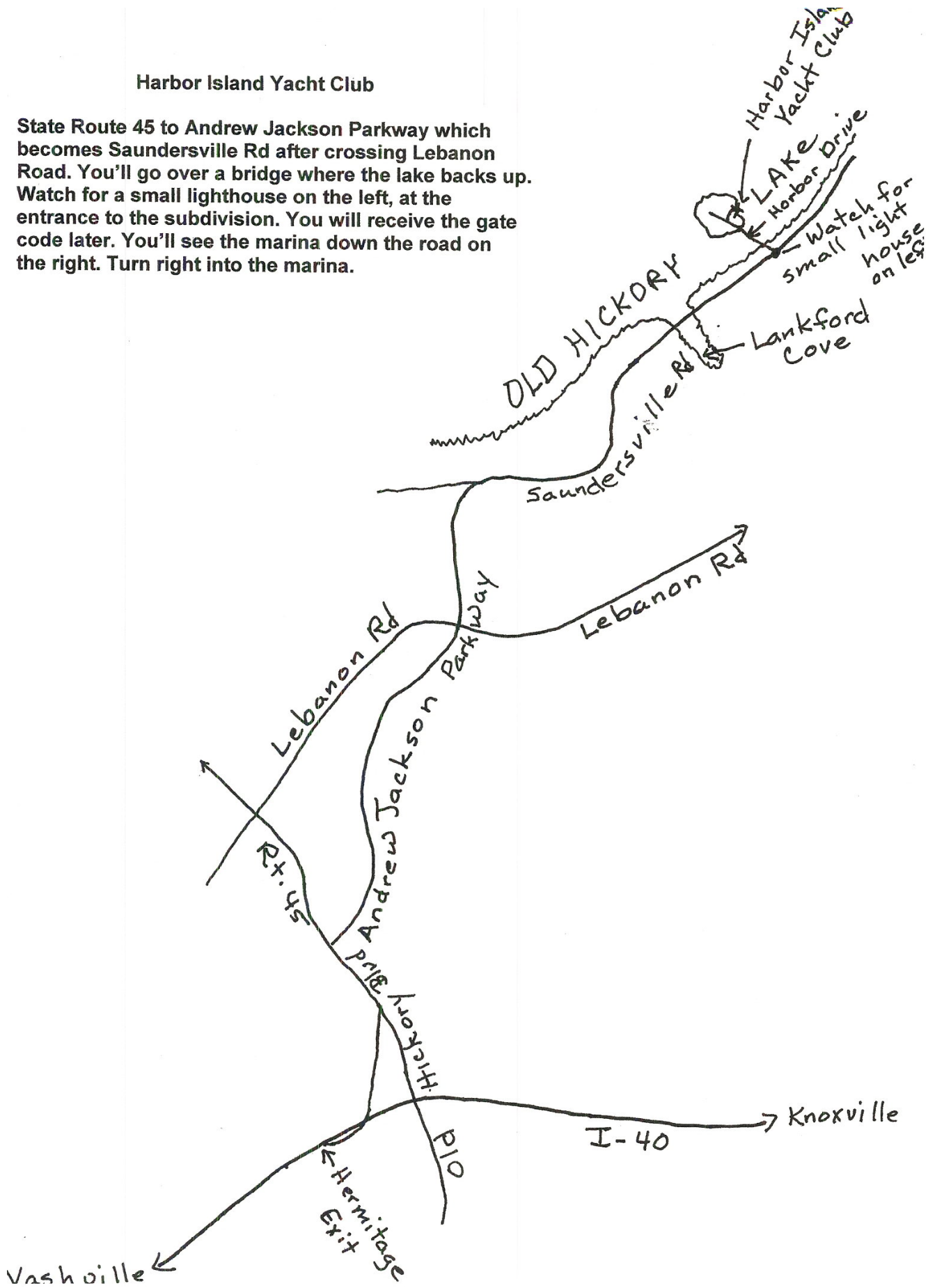
From I-65 NORTH (towards downtown): Take exit 81 for Wedgewood Avenue. Turn LEFT onto Wedgewood Avenue. Turn RIGHT onto 8th Avenue South. Turn LEFT onto Edgehill Avenue. Bridges is on the LEFT on Edgehill Avenue.

Parking is available at Bridges in the marked spaces only. Please do not park in the circle drive or along the grass (in front of the building). For more information go to [Google Maps](#)



# Harbor Island Yacht Club

State Route 45 to Andrew Jackson Parkway which becomes Saundersville Rd after crossing Lebanon Road. You'll go over a bridge where the lake backs up. Watch for a small lighthouse on the left, at the entrance to the subdivision. You will receive the gate code later. You'll see the marina down the road on the right. Turn right into the marina.





## **TODB NEWS**

Tennessee Organization of the Deaf-Blind, Inc.

3800 Sam Boney Drive, No. 101

Nashville, TN 37211-3745

July 2018 Issue

**Free Matter for the Blind  
and Phys. Handicapped  
Domestic Mail Manual**

Section – 703.5